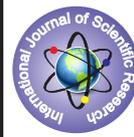


Socio economic demographic profile of zari workers in an urban slum in Mumbai



Social Science

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Unorganized sector Health morbidities in urban zari workers

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ABSTRACT

Occupational health has been largely ignored in India. In unorganized work places, the workers have an even lesser voice, as they are dependent on the goodwill of the employers for their job. Though zari work is skilled in nature, the demand far outweighs the supply. Migrants are usually the predominant workers in this sector, and their socio-demographics can give us a clue about their vulnerability. This study was undertaken with the idea of understanding the socio-economic-demographic situation of the workers involved in zari work in an urban slum in Mumbai. 325 workers involved in zari work were interviewed and the data collected was analyzed using SPSS version 16.

Introduction

Occupational health is one of the determinants of health.(1) A neglected area in the unorganized sector, these go largely unrecorded, unrecognized, & consequently unreported.

Objectives

- 1) To study the socio-economic profile of zari workers in an urban slum.
- 2) To study the demographic profile of zari workers in an urban slum.
- 3) To find out health complaints of the study subjects.

Sampling

Sampling units were selected using simple random sampling.

Study Duration

The Study was conducted over a period of two and a half years from July 2012 to January 2015.

Material and Methods

Study Setting: The study was conducted in an urban slum in Mumbai.

Study Design: Community-based, observational cross-sectional study.

Study Population: The study subjects involved in zari work and willing to participate were included in the study.

Sample Size: A total of 323 zari workers were enrolled in the study using a pre-validated questionnaire. History was collected by personal interview.

Data Processing and Analysis: Data was collected and compiled using Microsoft Excel 2013 and then analysed using SPSS 20.0 version and Open Epi Software Version 2.3.

Results

- Maximum workers, 22.8% belonged to the age group of 35-40 years, followed by 61 (18.8%) in the age group of 25-30 years.
- Majority, i.e. 112 (34.5%) had begun working between the ages of 15-20 years, followed by 86 (26.5%) between the ages of 10-15 years.

TABLE 1

Age group wise distribution of workers		
Age in years	Zari workers	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<20	10	3.1
20-25	42	12.9
25-30	61	18.8
30-35	35	10.8
35-40	74	22.8
40-45	55	16.9
45-50	19	5.8
>50	29	8.9

Age at the beginning of zari work		
<10	9	2.8
10-15	86	26.5
15-20	112	34.5
20-25	91	28
>25	27	8.3
Distribution of workers by state of origin		
Bihar	307	94.5
Uttar Pradesh	12	3.7
West Bengal	6	1.8
Religion wise distribution of workers		
Hindu	0	0
Muslim	325	100
Christian	0	0
Distribution of workers as per marital status		
Married	270	83.1
Unmarried	55	16.9
Total	325	100.0

- Majority of the zari workers were from Bihar viz.307 (94.5%) followed by Uttar Pradesh i.e.12 (3.7%).
- All the zari workers (100%) were Muslim by religion.
- The majority i.e.83.1%of the zari workers were married.

TABLE 2

Distribution of workers as per type of family		
Type of family	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Nuclear	259	79.7
Joint	54	16.6
Extended	12	3.7
Total	325	100.0
Distribution of workers according to the number of family members in house		
No. of members	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1-3	68	20.9

3-6	155	47.7
6-9	55	16.9
9-12	33	10.2
12-15	5	1.5
15-18	9	2.8
Distribution of monthly income of the zari workers		
Monthly Income (Rs)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<5000	2	0.6
5000-7000	126	38
7000-9000	161	49.5
>9000	36	11.9
Total	325	100

Educational Status of Zari workers		
Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Illiterate	157	48.3
Primary	98	30.2
Middle	19	5.8
Secondary	33	10.2
Higher secondary	09	2.8
Graduate	09	2.8
Total	325	100

Distribution of workers according to socio economic Class (Using modified Kuppuswamy classification)			
Class	Class	Frequency	Percentage (%)
I	Upper	0	0
II	Upper middle	35	10.8
III	Lower middle	92	28.3
IV	Upper lower	198	60.9
V	Lower	0	0

Distribution of zari workers as per duration of work in years		
No. of Years	Frequency	Percentage (%)
< 5	41	12.6
5-10	62	19.1
10-15	84	25.8
15-20	48	14.8
>20	90	27.7

Distribution of types of addictions among workers		
Addiction	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Alcohol	3	1.7
Alcohol with smoking	6	3.4
Alcohol with smokeless tobacco	0	0
Smoking tobacco	19	10.7
Smoking with smokeless tobacco	0	0
Smokeless tobacco	149	84.2
Alcohol with smoking with smokeless tobacco	0	0

- Table 2 shows that 79.7%, of the zari workers lived in nuclear families i.e. 259 , 54 (16.6%) in joint families, whereas 12 (3.7%) were from extended families.
- 47.7% (i.e. 155) of zari workers had 3-6 members in their house, 20.9% (i.e. 68) zari workers had 1-3 member in their house. 4.3% (i.e. 14) zari workers had more than 12 members in their family.
- 38.6% of the zari workers earned less than Rs.7000. 49.5% of the zari workers earned between Rs.7000-9000 per month. Only

11.1% zari workers earned more than Rs 9000.

- Almost half of the zari workers i.e. 157 (48.3%) were illiterate. Amongst the rest, 30.2 % were educated upto primary level, 10.2 % upto secondary level and only 2.8% were educated up to graduate level. Over all, the literacy among zari workers was 51.7% .
- More than half 198 i.e. (60.9%) of the zari workers belonged to socioeconomic class IV (upper lower). And approximately one third 92 i.e. (28.3%) were from class III (lower middle) & around half 154 i.e. (47.4%) . None of them belonged to lower or upper class.
- Majority i.e. 90 (27.7%) had worked for more than 20 years followed by 84 (i.e. 25.8%) who had worked for 10 to 15 years. Only about 41 (i.e. 12.6%) had worked as zari workers for less than 5 years.
- 179 (i.e. 54.5%) workers had some type of addiction. Majority of zari workers were addicted to only smokeless tobacco i.e. 84.2%; followed by 10.7% who only smoked.
- It can be seen that 31.4% zari workers complained of headache. 12.8% zari-workers had respiratory complaints, 7.7% zari workers had complaints related to cardiovascular system. 26.2% had gastrointestinal problems, 16.3% had skin problems, and 7.7 % had complaints of burning micturition.

Discussion

Though the maximum number of workers, i.e. 34.5% had begun zari work between the ages of 15-20 years, followed by 26.5 % between the ages of 10-15 years, the maximum workers i.e. 26.8% were in the age group of 35-40 years, followed by 18.8% in the age group of 25-30 years. This discrepancy is probably due to the fact that either the workers did not know their exact ages, or were not telling the truth { as it is illegal to work below the age of 18 years}.

In the study conducted by Bhatia ⁽²⁾ (1987) in Cheetah camp, Mumbai, the mean age of workers was found to be 23.36 years, and 22.5 % of workers were below 15 years of age, while Punalkar ⁽¹⁾, 1988 in his study on 500 female workers in Gujarat found the mean age to be 26.42 years.

Study conducted by Sharma et al ⁽³⁾, 2013 found that 80.8% zari workers were Muslim by religion.

Singh et al ⁽⁴⁾ reported that 63.8% had 5-8 family members, while 9 % had more than 8 members in their house, average being 5.8 in their study. According to Bhatia ⁽²⁾, 29.4% workers had up to 5 members in their house while 45% had 6-9 members. Tripathy ⁽⁵⁾, found that 54% had a family size of 4-6 members.

Most of the workers were found to have an experience of more than 20 years as this is a type of skilled work and thus they did not want to change their job in spite of less income.

Sharma et al ⁽³⁾, found that around 69.3% of workers had some or other kind of addiction. In the current study, zari workers mostly chewed tobacco because they believed that this would keep them alert for longer durations.

TABLE 3

Morbidity	Frequency	Percentage (%)
General		
Headache	102	31.4
Respiratory		
Rhinitis	16	4.9
Cough	23	7
Cardiovascular		

Breathlessness	12	3.7
Palpitation	13	4.0
Gastrointestinal		
Gastritis	54	15.7
Constipation	31	10.5
Skin		
Itching	11	3.4
Rash	21	6.5
Ringworm	16	4.9
Scabies	5	1.5
Genitourinary		
Burning micturition	25	7.7

In the study by Sharma et al (3), 17.1% had cough & cold, 4.4% had breathlessness and more than 50% had gastrointestinal problem.

In study by Giri et al (6) , 17.3% had respiratory problem, 3% had urinary infection.

Headache (31.4%) was more among zari workers which might be due to eye strain.11.9% had symptoms referred to the respiratory system i.e. 11.9% , probably because of poor ventilation at work place. Gastrointestinal problems in high percentages, (26.2%) could be due to not having proper food and eating food from outside. High skin problems (16.3%) might be due to improper hygiene and overcrowding.7.7% had genitourinary problems , which may be due to less water intake.

Conclusion

In the present study most of the zari workers were mainly 35-40 years of age .Muslim by religion, and belonging to nuclear families, most of them were migrants and were from the upper lower socio-economic class with almost half of them being illiterate.

Majority of the zari workers have worked more than twenty years in this field, and more than half zari workers were addicted to smokeless tobacco .

More than 85% of zari workers had some kind of morbidities.

The most common occupational health problem observed among zari workers were musculoskeletal morbidities followed by ocular morbidities.

Recommendations

1. Recognition of zari work industry as a significant economic industry by the government.
2. Registration of every Karkhana (work place) should be there under the local ward officer.
3. All workers should be given identity card and health card for future recording, and zari workers complete database must be maintained by the employer.
4. Fixed or regulated working hours for zari workers should be there. They should be entitled to causal and sick leave.

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